



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

**Committee Bill No. 963**

LCO No. 4828

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:  
(KID)

**AN ACT REQUIRING COORDINATION OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN  
WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Assembly convened:

1 (NEW) (a) The Department of Mental Retardation shall serve as the  
2 lead agency for coordination of services for children with special  
3 health care needs. As used in this act, "children with special health care  
4 needs" means children under the age of eighteen who: (1) Have one or  
5 more serious chronic medical conditions; (2) are developmentally  
6 disabled; and (3) have ongoing significant health care service needs.

7 (b) On or before December 31, 2001, the Commissioners of Mental  
8 Retardation, Social Services, Children and Families, Education, Mental  
9 Health and Addiction Services and Public Health and the Child  
10 Advocate shall develop a plan for the establishment and  
11 administration of an account that contains any funds appropriated by  
12 or available to the state for the delivery of services or resources to  
13 children with special health care needs or their families. The  
14 Commissioner of Mental Retardation shall be responsible for the  
15 development and administration of a comprehensive plan for the  
16 coordinated expenditure of such funds and for the coordinated

17 delivery of services to children with special health care needs.

18 (c) The comprehensive plan for the coordinated expenditure of  
19 funds and for the coordinated delivery of services to children with  
20 special health care needs required by subsection (b) of this section shall  
21 include: (1) A single point of entry to the system of state-funded or  
22 state-administered services or resources for children with special  
23 health care needs; (2) a system-of-care model in which service  
24 planning is directed by the needs and preferences of the child and the  
25 child's family and that places a greater emphasis on early  
26 identification, prevention and early intervention to prevent the  
27 escalation of special health care needs; (3) development of a  
28 comprehensive and flexible continuum of services with emphasis on  
29 home-based and community-based support services that permit care of  
30 the child to occur in the appropriate, least restrictive setting; (4)  
31 community-based care coordination and service delivery; (5)  
32 identification of the need, if any, for additional appropriate, least  
33 restrictive residential placements for children with special health care  
34 needs and a plan for development of such residential placements, if  
35 needed.

***Statement of Purpose:***

To require coordination of services for children with special health care needs.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

Co-Sponsors: SEN. WILLIAMS, 29th Dist.